

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A neuron survival-promoting peptide having the sequence of CHEASAAQC (SEQ ID NO: 1) or a variant thereof.  
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2. The neuron survival-promoting peptide of claim 1, said peptide having 1-9 conservative amino acid substitutions.  
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3. A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the neuron survival-promoting peptide of claim 1, in a biologically acceptable carrier.
4. A method for treating a patient having a neurodegenerative disorder, or disorder with an inflammatory component comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of the peptide of claim 1.  
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5. The method of claim 4, wherein said neurodegenerative disorder is selected from the group consisting of trauma, stroke, nonspecific anoxia, mental retardation syndromes associated with progressive neuronal degeneration, and a neurodegenerative disease.  
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6. The method of claim 5, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).  
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7. The method of claim 4, wherein said disorder

with an inflammatory component is selected from the group consisting of asthma, autoimmune disease, and allergies.

5        8. A method for treating a patient having an acute head trauma or neural injury comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of the peptide of claim 1.

10       9. The method of claim 8, wherein said peptide is administered at a time point selected from the group consisting of within 1 hour of injury, within 2 hours of injury, within 6 hours of injury, within 12 hours of injury, and within 1 day of injury.

15       10. The method of claim 8, wherein said CHEC-9 peptide is administered in combination with another therapeutic agent.

20       11. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the CHEC-9 peptide of claim 1.

12. An isolated RNA molecule transcribed from the nucleic acid of claim 11.

25       13. An isolated plasmid comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 11.

14. An isolated vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 11.

30       15. An isolated retroviral vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 11.

16. An isolated host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 11.

5        17. The isolated host cell of claim 16, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of bacterial, fungal, mammalian, insect and plant cells.

18. A host animal comprising the nucleic acid  
10 molecule of claim 11.

19. An antibody immunologically specific for the isolated CHEC-9 peptide of claim 1.

15        20. The antibody of claim 19, which is a monoclonal antibody.

21. The antibody of claim 19, which is a polyclonal antibody.

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22. A kit for treating a neurodegenerative disorder or inflammatory disorder in a patient comprising:

25        a) an isolated CHEC-9 peptide;  
         b) a pharmaceutical excipient; and optionally  
         c) a vehicle for administration, such as a syringe or catheter, and instructional material.

23. The kit of claim 22, wherein the kit further  
30 comprises a detectable label.

24. A kit for detecting CHEC-9 peptide comprising:

a) means for isolating a CHEC-9 peptide or nucleic acid encoding a CHEC-9 peptide from a biological sample;

b) means for detecting and quantifying said  
5 peptides or nucleic acids; and optionally

c) instructional material.